

SIMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND HEFOEM!

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wise diminished, he studied profitably from the time of entering the College of Aix in October, 1852. He was placed in the seventh class (the lowest but one), and at the expiration of the school year, in August, 1853, he was awarded first prizes for history and geography, recitation, and the translation of Latin into French, and second prizes for grammar, arithmetic, religious instruction, and the translation of French into Latin.¹ In the following year, in the sixth class, he was less successful, some antipathy, it is said, existing between him and one of the professors.² Nevertheless, his name was inscribed on the *tableau d'honneur*, and he obtained a first prize for history and geography, a first *accessit* in religious instruction, and third *accessits* in excellence and recitation.

Next, 1854-1855, he passed into the fifth class, in which he gained two first prizes for Latin, translation and composition; a second prize for the translation of Greek into French; a first *accessit* in excellence, and third *accessits* in French, history, geography, and recitation. At the end of the ensuing school year, when he joined the fourth class, he secured four first prizes — excellence, Latin composition, Latin verse, translation from Latin into French; and three second prizes — history and geography, grammar, and Greek

exercise.

Finally, in 1856-1857 (his last completed year, spent in the third class) he was awarded: the *tcAleau d'Jionneur* prize, first prizes for excellence, French composition, arithmetic, geom-etry, physics, chemistry, natural history, and recitation; second prizes for religious instruction and translation from

¹ "Palmarks du College d'Aix," 1853 *et seq.*

² P. Alexis, *L c.*, p. 21.

⁸ An *accessit* is a distinction conferred, in French colleges, on the three pupils who come nearest to a prize winner.